



## **Testimony to the Public Health Committee**

**Submitted by Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut**

**March 16, 2012**

### **Regarding House Bill 5435, An Act Concerning "Do Not Resuscitate" Orders**

LeadingAge Connecticut is a membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long term care including nursing homes and home health care agencies. (LeadingAge Connecticut was formerly named the *Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging or CANPFA*.)

Our members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community, and municipal organizations that are committed to providing quality care and services to their residents and clients. Our member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, are dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging.

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut, I would like to submit the following testimony regarding *House Bill 5435, An Act Concerning "Do Not Resuscitate" Orders*.

This bill appears to be proposing to amend the current "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) statute to require that the Department of Public Health (DPH) issue regulations concerning not only DNR bracelets, but also transfer and recognition of DNR orders by health care institutions. It is our understanding that DPH regulations already address DNR transfers. For instance, the current regulations permit a hospital to send a DNR transfer form to a nursing home (or vice versa) indicating DNR status and the receiving institution must honor the DNR order from the transferring institution until such time as it enters its own DNR order. We are not sure if this proposed bill is technical in nature or if there is an intention to make changes to the current regulations. However, because this is such an important issue for long term care providers, we would appreciate being made aware of any potential changes to the current process so as to have the opportunity to comment and influence those changes.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony and we respectfully offer our assistance to the Committee and the Department of Public Health on this issue.

Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut

**LeadingAge Connecticut, 1340 Worthington Ridge, Berlin, CT 06037 (860)828-2903 [mmorelli@leadingagect.org](mailto:mmorelli@leadingagect.org)**